Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 01 Mar 2024 until 23:59 on Saturday 02 Mar 2024

Forecast Issued on Thursday 29 Feb 2024 at 10:51

Confidence: High for rather cold conditions with bands of rain, sleet or snow affecting the United Kingdom. Some day-to-day uncertainties in the track of these so please keep updated with the latest forecast.

Headline for Friday 01 Mar 2024: Dry start but sleet or snow arriving giving difficult conditions. Windy with blizzards developing on the tops.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 01 Mar 2024

Blizzards Low Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** Medium Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales Low Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** Low Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow showers (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Cloudy	Light snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Fog
Precipitation probability							
30%	10%	10%	10%	60%	90%	90%	40%

Forecast for Friday 01 Mar 2024

Weather: Wintry showers dying out overnight then a dry and bright start. It will soon cloud over with sleet or snow arriving from the south around late morning or early afternoon (some uncertainty in the timings), with mainly rain or sleet down in the valleys. This will be persistent and perhaps heavy for a few hours before clearing north during the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70% in the morning becoming less than 10% as sleet or snow arrive and cloud descends in the afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Mainly good visibility at first with patchy cloud above 600m. Visibility becoming poor or very poor as sleet or snow arrives with extensive cloud and fog above 400m leading to very difficult navigation. Blizzard conditions on the tops in the afternoon.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
© Crown Copyright 2024. All Rights Reserved.

Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Friday 01 Mar 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	17/22 S	18/24 SE	24/32 E	31/40 E	32/42 E	29/37 E	18/22 E	10/14 E	9/12 E
600	17/22 S	16/24 SE	18/27 E	20/30 E	22/32 E	22/30 E	14/19 E	8/11 E	7/10 E
300	7/16 S	7/19 SE	8/21 E	10/26 E	10/27 E	9/26 E	6/15 E	4/9 E	3/7 E
Valley	6/14 S	7/17 SE	8/18 E	12/26 NE	14/30 NE	13/30 NE	10/20 NE	5/10 NE	7/11 NE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-3/-9	-4/-11	-4/-12	-3/-13	-3/-12	-3/-11	-4/-10	-4/-9	-5/-9
600	-1/-7	-2/-8	-2/-9	-2/-9	-1/-8	-1/-7	-2/-7	-2/-6	-3/-7
300	0/-3	0/-3	-0/-4	1/-3	2/-2	1/-3	0/-3	-1/-3	-3/-6
Valley	2/-1	2/-1	2/-1	4/-0	4/0	4/-1	2/-1	2/0	2/-1
Freezing Level*	400m	300m	200m	300m	400m	400m	400m	400m	300m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

A cold day with a severe wind chill on the tops. Conditions deteriorating quite quickly from late morning or early afternoon when sleet or snow arrives.

Forecast for Saturday 02 Mar 2024

Weather: Dry with clear spells and a frost overnight. A dry and bright start but becoming cloudy with occasional showers developing, wintry above 400m.

Maximum wind: Northeast 10 to 15mph gusts 25mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 80% decreasing to 30% in the afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Good visibility in the morning with just the odd patch of fog in the valleys. Poor at times in the afternoon and evening with areas of cloud and fog developing above 400 to 600m.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Minus 2C rising to 5C.
At 800m: Minus 4C rising to Minus 1C.
Freezing level: 300m rising to 700m.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
© Crown Copyright 2024. All Rights Reserved.

Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 29 February 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 1150 Full report: This report comes with a health warning in that, at the time of writing, showers are forecast which could fall as snow above 400 - 600m. Therefore walkers planning to be out on Friday should be prepared to encounter more snow and ice than experienced and described today – although, to be honest, that would not be difficult! There has been a dramatic thaw over the past 24 hours with the result that the vast majority of the Lakeland fells up to, and including, summit level are now free from snow and ice with many paths this morning actually being dry. The snow that remains now lies above 800m in isolated sheltered spots and hollows with the vast majority above 900m on steep east and north facing aspects. As such, it represents little hazard to walkers with the possible exception of the Helvellyn edges. Striding Edge, however, can now be climbed without setting foot on snow if exiting to the south of the normal route (which goes in front of the Gough memorial where there's some snow). There are, however, some patches of unavoidable compacted snow at the top of Swirral edge. Microspikes were useful to safely traverse these today, especially in descent since it is not a place to slip. The only other locations where ice was encountered on paths today were above 800m where old snow has been compacted. Even most of these have thawed since yesterday and where they remained they were generally easily avoidable. Despite the first day of meteorological Spring tomorrow, the summit temperature at midday today was just below zero degrees with the windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) a chillier minus 9 degrees C, so full winter clothing (waterproofs – which double as windproofs - , extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment, including a torch, map and compass (with the ability to use them and navigate competently in poor visibility) are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. Owing to the possibility of fresh snow falling, walkers heading for ground above 400m on Friday should consider carrying microspikes and walking poles. For those attempting steep and exposed routes above this altitude, an ice axe and crampons/microspikes may be necessary. Navigation will certainly be more challenging in the snow as visibility decreases and landmarks disappear so do choose your route with care and be prepared to amend it if required. Temperature: minus 0.6 C, Maximum wind speed 19.9 mph, Wind chill: minus 8.7 C, Average wind speed: 14.0 mph.

Issued at: 1051 on Thu 29 Feb 2024

© Crown Copyright 2024. All Rights Reserved.